

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY S/S:SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 015661

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL RPT CAIRO 2194 SENT ACTION JERUSALEM INFO SECSTATE
DTD 19 JAN 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 02194

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

JERUSALEM FOR USDEL SECRETARY

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV OVIP EG US IS (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
SADAT

REF: (A) SECTO 1043, (B) SECTO 1045

1. MANAGED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH VP MUBARAK 2030 THIS
EVENING. HE HAD JUST COME BACK FROM DAY-LONG MEEING WITH
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SADAT. I TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU IN
PREPARING FOR TOMORROW'S TALK WITH SADAT IF I COULD GIVE
YOU SOME ADVANCE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT SADAT'S PRESENT
STRATEGY IS. YOU HOPE THAT HE WILL GO INTO DETAIL ON THIS
IN TOMORROW'S MEETING AND THAT HE WILL ALSO SHARE WITH YOU
HIS THOUGHTS FOR THE SPEECH WHICH HE INTENDS TO MAKE TO
THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ON SATURDAY.

AS SADAT AND MUBARAK KNEW, PRESIDENT CARTER IS ANXIOUS TO DIRECT OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT SADAT, BUT WE NEED TO KNOW PRECISELY WHERE OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO BE MOST USEFUL.

2. MUBARAK WAS NOT ESPECIALLY HELPFUL. HE SAID HE KNEW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WANTS TO SUPPORT SADAT. SADAT, HE SAID, HAS MANY IDEAS WHICH WILL NEED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUPPORT. ALL OF THESE WILL BE DISCUSSED BY SADAT IN A TETE-A-TETE SESSION WITH YOU TOMORROW. HE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON SPECIFICS OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT SADAT WANTS TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION AND "JUMP OVER" HIS EARLIER IDEA OF A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. (YOU WILL REMEMBER THIS POINT WAS MADE TO US SHORTLY BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE.)

3. I EMPHASIZED TO MUBARAK THAT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT HAD BEEN EXPENDED IN JERUSALEM TO ARRIVE AT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. YOU WILL BE TELLING HIM ABOUT THAT TOMORROW. IT SEEMED UNFORTUNATE TO GET AWAY FROM THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IDEA. MUBARAK COMMENTED THAT SADAT IS AFRAID THAT WHATEVER DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES EMERGES WILL BE TOO WEAK TO HELP HIM IN ARAB WORLD; HENCE HIS SHIFT TO GOING ALL OUT ON A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. IN ANY CASE, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE TELLING YOU ABOUT IT TOMORROW.

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4. I THEN WENT THROUGH THE OTHER POINTS MADE IN BOTH REFTELS, STRESSING THAT WE ASSUME THAT SADAT IS ALSO THINKING IN TERMS OF WHAT MIGHT BEST BE DONE TO GET THE POLITICAL NEGOTIATION BACK ON TRACK. MUBARAK AFFIRMED THIS. I ALSO TOLD HIM ABOUT YOUR MEETING WITH BEGIN (REF B). IN DOING SO, I AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT PROGRESS ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT WAS BEING MADE. NO IMPASSE HAD BEEN REACHED AND SADAT'S DECISION HAD COME AS A SURPRISE. THE ISRAELI REACTION HAD BEEN TO VIEW IT AS A PRESSURE TACTIC AND AS AN UNWARRANTED DECISION IN TERMS OF WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. ISRAELIS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON ISSUES AFTER THIS MOVE. OUR PURPOSE, I POINTED OUT, IS TO GET NEGOTIATIONS BACK ON THE TRACKS, BUT DECISION AS TO HOW TO DO SO MUST AWAIT YOUR MEETING WITH SADAT AND THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. WE HOPE THAT SPEECH WILL NOT CLOSE THE DOOR OR WORSEN THE ATMOSPHERE AND WILL OURSELVES CONTINUE THE LOW-KEY TREATMENT THAT ALL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE UPS AND DOWNS. I STRESSED THAT, HOWEVER TEDIOUS NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THEM IF THERE IS TO BE A SETTLEMENT.

5. MUBARAK ACKNOWLEDGED ALL THESE POINTS AND SAID HE WOULD BRIEF SADAT ON THEM. HE ASKED THAT I GIVE THEM TO HIM IN WRITING, WHICH I AM DOING TONIGHT IN PARAPHRASED FORM. SADAT, MUBARAK SAID, WISHES TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS NO INTENTION OF CLOSING THE DOOR. THE ISRAELIS MUST, HOWEVER, SHOW MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN THEY HAVE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE MENTIONED ANOTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT BY BEGIN THIS EVENING WHICH HE TERMED UNHELPFUL. HE DID NOT PROVIDE DETAILS.

6. ALTHOUGH I KNEW THAT WEIZMAN HAD NOT COME TODAY, I ASKED MUBARAK IF HE HAD ARRIVED. SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY, MUBARAK SAID HE HAD NOT. I TOLD HIM WEIZMAN HOPES TO BE
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AUTHORIZED TO COME (JERUSALEM 168). YOU COMMEND SADAT'S DECISION TO RESUME MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS IN CAIRO AND HAVE URGED BEGIN TO SEND WEIZMAN BACK FOR THEIR RESUMPTION. MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT, AS A RESULT OF YOUR URGING, THE ISRAELI CABINET HAD TODAY DECIDED TO REVERSE ITS INITIAL DECISION TO REFUSE TO CONTINUE THE MILITARY TALKS. INSTEAD, SADAT'S PROPOSAL WOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THE DOOR REMAIN OPEN PENDING A REPORT ON YOUR TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT TOMORROW. MEANWHILE, GENERAL TAMIR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF WEIZMAN'S TEAM WILL REMAIN HERE. MUBARAK CLEARLY GOT THE POINT.

7. I ALSO TOLD HIM YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WEIZMAN'S PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND FUTURE AIRCRAFT SALES TO ISRAEL. MUBARAK NOTED THAT THIS ISSUE IS CAUSING GREAT PROBLEMS FOR SADAT. SADAT AND HE HAD RECEIVED WELL OVER 100 TELEPHONE CALLS TODAY, MANY FROM SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, ASKING HOW THE USG COULD AGREE TO SELL F-16S AND MORE F-15S TO ISRAEL WHEN BEGIN'S POSITION REMAINS ONE OF TOTAL INTRANSIGENCE. THE ISSUE, MUBARAK CLAIMED, HAS BECOME A REAL HEADACHE FOR SADAT. I SIMPLY REITERATED THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO EXPLAIN IT TO HIM. EILTS
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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